

HISTORY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT LIBRARY

(July 1, 1969)

By RAYMOND M. TAYLOR

*Marshal of the Supreme Court and Librarian of the Supreme
Court Library*

If government is to be "of laws and not of men,"¹ its laws must be recorded and preserved in an orderly manner that will make them accessible to all who are concerned with government.

It could have been such a realization in 1812 that caused the General Assembly of North Carolina then to adopt the law that resulted in the establishment of what today is the 66,000-volume North Carolina Supreme Court Library.

The law was ratified on Christmas Day of that year, and the law library that it established became and has remained especially important because of being North Carolina's only official repository of the printed legislative acts, codes, and court decisions of the Federal government and the governments of each of the individual states of the United States.

Although relatively few people other than lawyers and State officials ever have heard of the Supreme Court Library, the results of its users' work have great influence upon the lives of all citizens of North Carolina.

Foremost among the users of the Library are the Chief Justice and the six Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.² Their chambers and courtroom, like the Supreme Court Library, are in the Justice Building facing Capitol Square in Raleigh.

Other official users include the Judges and staff of the Court of Appeals, the Governor and his staff, members of the General Assembly and their staffs, the Attorney General and his staff, and representatives of many other areas of State government.

Although full utilization of the Library's facilities is difficult for persons not trained in the use of lawbooks, the Library frequently is used by students, newsmen, and laymen who are interested in various aspects of the law.

¹ MASS. CONST., DECLARATION OF RIGHTS art. 30 (1780).

² They are Chief Justice R. Hunt Parker and Associate Justices William H. Bobbitt, Carlisle W. Higgins, Susie Sharp, I. Beverly Lake, Joseph Branch, and J. Frank Huskins.